

Approved

TOWN OF WESTFORD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

DATE: Saturday, May 11, 2002

TIME: 8:45 A.M.

PLACE: Abbot School Cafeteria

PRESENT: Robert Jefferies, Dini Healy-Coffin, Chris Romeo, Robert McCusker,
Allan Loiselle

Continuation of Selectmen Positions for Annual Town Meeting

Article 5: Fiscal 2002 Supplemental Appropriations/Town Manager

Ledoux read a list of supplemental appropriations. It was moved by Loiselle, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support Article 5.

Article 6: Fiscal Year 2002 Transfers/Town Manager

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support Article 6.

Article 12: Early Retirement/Board of Selectmen

Ledoux reported that the bill has passed the House and Senate and is currently on the Governor's desk. If the Town does not adopt the provisions of House Bill 4951 by June 12, 2002, it becomes the sole discretion of the Selectmen. Ledoux stated that there was no way to predict the costs associated with the action at this time. This bill does not apply to school teachers. It was moved by Loiselle, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to withdraw Article 12 because there is no law in place right now.

Article 24: Acceptance of Enterprise Legislation – Ambulance/Town Manager

Article 25: Acceptance of Enterprise Legislation – Solid Waste/Board of Selectmen

Ledoux reported that the Finance Committee will be making a motion to move Articles 24 and 25 in front of Article 4 (Fiscal Year 2003 Operating Budget) and to amend Article 25 to strike the language regarding a ballot vote in the Fall. McCusker was in favor of postponing the Capital Expenditures until Fall Town Meeting. Ledoux suggested deferring \$400,000 to the Fall Town Meeting and using \$1 million for capital. The Board agreed. The Finance Committee and Suzanne Marchand, Finance Director, joined the meeting to discuss Article 24 and Article 25. Jefferies recommended that \$400,000 be pulled from the Capital Expenditures and brought back in the Fall as supplemental and cover the difference with Free Cash for a balanced budget. Judy Culver, Finance Committee, stated that the Board needed to explain to the voters why a vote is needed in the Fall for Article 25 but not for Article 24. The Board and the Finance Committee discussed the operating budget and the Finance Committee's proposed amendment to Article 25 which would remove the language regarding a Fall ballot question. Ledoux read a list of recommended potential cuts in the amount of \$397,170. The Board and the Finance Committee also discussed the potential problems relative to implementing the solid waste program. It was agreed that if the voters make a favorable decision today, it will provide six months to implement. The Finance Committee recommended a recess after Article 24 and Article 25 in order to have a consensus of opinion to move forward. It was moved by Loiselle, seconded by Jefferies, and VOTED 3 IN FAVOR with 2 OPPOSED (McCusker, Romeo), to support the Finance Committee's amendment and let the voters decide today with no ballot question in the Fall. Jefferies recommended taking Article 17 Capital Requests and Article 18 School Building & Facility Repairs out of order if Articles 24 and 25 fail.

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 OPPOSED (McCusker), to support Article 24.

It was moved by Loiselle, seconded by Jefferies, and VOTED 3 IN FAVOR with 2 OPPOSED (McCusker, Romeo), to support Article 25.

Article 17: Capital Requests/Various Departments

Jefferies suggested that if Article 25 fails, take \$397,000 out of capital requests from Article 17 Capital Requests. It was moved by Loiselle, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support. It was moved by Loiselle, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 OPPOSED (McCusker), to support Article 17, as written.

Article 18: School Building & Facility Repairs/School Department

It was moved by Romeo, seconded by McCusker, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support Article 18, as written.

Article 4: Fiscal Year 2003 Operating Budget/Town Manager

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Loiselle, and VOTED 4 IN FAVOR with 1 OPPOSED (McCusker), to support Article 4.

Article 26: Fire Truck Lease Option/Fire Department

It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support Article 26.

Article 27: Tax Relief for Long-Time Residents of Westford/By Petition

Jeff Chelgren, Assistant Town Manager, reported that the language in Article 27 has been amended and is now structured as a bylaw. Chelgren stated that Town Counsel has concerns regarding Section 146.5 Income and Assets Requirements, specifically, the sentence which reads “Applicants must meet income and asset requirements of this program.” Town Counsel has suggested amending to include Mass General Laws citation regarding means test. The Committee would like to leave the motion as it is written and will amend on Town Meeting floor to include the means tests. Judy Ramirez, Senior Tax Committee, explained the means test and the impact to the tax rate. It was moved by McCusker, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support Article 27, as amended.

Article 38: Acquisition of Groton Road Land/Conservation Commission

It was determined that there was no conflict of interest regarding Romeo. It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support Article 38.

Article 43: Discontinuance of a Portion of Old Concord Road/Board of Selectmen

It was moved by Romeo, seconded by Healy-Coffin, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to declare a portion of Old Concord Road surplus land (not in front of Paul Berry’s land).

Article 50: Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Growth Management Bylaw/Growth Management Bylaw Committee

Chelgren reported that the language has changed to reflect Accessory Dwelling Units in the appendix. It was moved by McCusker, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support Article 50.

Article 51: Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Growth Management Bylaw/Growth Management Bylaw Committee

It was moved by McCusker, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to support Article 51.

Motion to Convene to Annual Town Meeting

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to convene to Annual Town Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Motion to Adjourn

It was moved by Healy-Coffin, seconded by Romeo, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, to adjourn the meeting at the close of Town Meeting.

Steve Ledoux, Town Manager

Robert Jefferies, Chairman